A LEARNER'S DICTIONARY OF CLASSICAL ARABIC IDIOMS

(Arabic - English)
قاموس لتعلم اللغة العربية للفعلاء الكلاسيكية العربية

تأليف
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Arabic - English

by
L.J. McLoughlin

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This small collection of Arabic idioms is intended for both Arab students of English and for English-speaking students of Arabic. The aims of the compiler have been to stimulate the interest of the student of Arabic in the richness of Arabic expression and to introduce the native Arabic speaker to varieties of idiom translation.

For the foreign student of Arabic it may seem daunting that modern Arabic, even the much-maligned newspaper version, draws on such a wealth of sources: the Koran, Hadith, proverbs and riddles, ancient and modern, columns of sources, etc. This small collection gives samples from these and other sources with the aim of smoothing the path of the student.

The native speaker of Arabic may find it useful to study the various possibilities for translating into idiomatic English, almost any of the examples given. Much will depend, of course, on the context, as to whether one chooses this piece of idiomatic English or that. There could be a world of difference, for example in rendering 'manatlab', by
'Hi!', or 'Hullo!' or 'Welcome!', to mention only a few possibilities. This may be a good point at which to remind students that there is a vast difference between 'He is very rich' and 'He is too rich' which can be rendered in the same words in Arabic.

The selection of items for translation is based on taking the Arabic as the origin. The arrangement is alphabetical by root and it will be obvious immediately that the selection is a very subjective one. The compiler has, in choosing from many thousands of items made personal judgements about which items he has found in most common use. Postillions-and-lightning juxtapositions have been studiously avoided.

Items have been numbered consecutively irrespective of alphabetical divisions and it is hoped that this feature plus the parallel text arrangement will help students in self-testing and teachers in assigning and testing learning. Teachers will inevitably find that they wish to add to the possibilities for English idioms (which have been deliberately kept to a meaningful minimum) and may find this collection a useful mine for compiling sentences to illustrate meaning more fully.

Leslie J. McLoughlin
15. Certainly! Of course!  
By all means!

16. Indefinitely; sine die.

17. He shouldered/bore the responsibility.

18. He took the necessary steps/Measures.


20. He took it seriously.

21. Life hereafter; the after life.

22. From time to time.

23. “O! Brethren!” (As in the opening address of a speech).

7. A matter of no importance.

8. Parents.

9. (A characteristic handed down by) the father from the grandfather.

10. Whether you like it or not.

11. As follows.

12. Inappropriate circumstances; unfavourable situation.

13. He was not hurt; suffered no damage; came to no harm.

14. Following; after; subsequent to (Preposition.)
30. He was not hurt; suffered no injury.

31. The Holy Land. (Used for both Palestine and Mecca/Medina).

32. The situation become critical/one of crisis.

33. On the basis that...

34. There is no foundation in it of truth.

35. The main ledger (Accounting).

36. The whole/entire world.

24. An amiable person. (Lit: 'Like Adam'.) Human, approachable, etc.

25. He performed (the obligation of) the Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca in the month of pilgrimage).

26. ... which will inevitably lead to...

27. ‘In thanking Mr. ...... we must not forget ......’

28. The call to prayer of: Dawn; Noontime; Late Afternoon; Sunset; Evening.

29. Announcing the end of ....
knows where the shoulder is  
best eaten from!')

44. Full board. (Lit.: eating and  
drinking and sleeping).

45. After much ado; after a good  
deal of beating around the bush.

46. From beginning to end; from  
Alpha to Omega. (Esp. in  
context of knowing a  
subject thoroughly).

47. There is no God but God.  
لا إله إلا الله.

48. God, may He be  
praised and exalted!

49. God, may His majesty be  
glorified!

50. God, may He be exalted and  
glorified!

37. What a great pity! It is such a  
share! It is so regrettable.

38. With the greatest regret.

39. In the same manner as/  
following the example of.

40. The dispute already existing  
(Note various ways of  
rendering 'already').

41. In accordance with basic  
principles; as is only  
fitting, etc.

42. For sure; no doubt about it.

43. He knows how to go about  
things. (Suggestion of  
opportunism. Lit.: 'He
51. Lit.: ‘O God!’ In prose often introduces ‘except if’, with the sense, ‘…or at best…’

52. God, the Most High, the Almighty.

53. God, Who hears and responds.

54. With God’s permission.

55. If God wills.

56. We shall spare no effort.

57. And so on; etc.; and similar things.

58. Mecca.

59. The day before yesterday.
74. Where do you get this from? من أين لك هذا؟
How did you come by this?
(Proverbial phrase, ironical, in respect of suspicious affluence).

67. Those with great power and influence. (Lit.: 'to bind and loose').

68. The time has come. حان الآن
69. Premature. سابق لأوانه
70. Hitherto; before now; already.

71. The Koran. (Lit.: 'God's clear signs')

72. He had the greatest admiration for him. (Lit.: '... what an admiration!').

73. There is no comparison between the two of them. (Lit.: 'Where is this from that?').
80. It is clear/obvious/ needs no saying that....

81. Apparently.

82. Apparently.

83. Vile language.

84. He made every effort.

85. He made the most extreme efforts/he did as much as he possibly could.

86. An unjustified/unprovoked attack.

87. The good/dutiful son.

88. "Believe(even) in a stone and you will be healed". (Proverbial).

75. Including....

76. Parking strictly forbidden/prohibited.

77. By land, sea and air.

78. He must/will have to/has no choice but to....

79. To begin with.
97. (Some do one thing while) others (do something else).

98. Every house has a sewer/ cesspool. ('Skeletons in the cupboard'). (Proverbial).

99. Give him my best wishes/ regards!

100. The situation became crystallized.

101. A decent chap.

102. A man of good family.

103. Lit.: 'a girl of yesterday.'

Suggestion of: (nouveau-riche), 'arriviste'; of no standing or background.

89. He came in in a towering rage.

90. He is still a wealthy man.

91. An Absurd/silly/stupid question.

92. God bless you!

93. He put the plan forward for discussion.

94. A glimmer of hope.

95. To some extent.

96. They hit each other.
104. A word. (Frequently in contexts such as ‘... and he didn’t say a single word’).

105. In accordance with the instructions of...

106. He has no idea what is going on/doesn’t understand a thing. (Lit.: ‘does not know the bend from his elbow’).

107. Patient, long-suffering.

108. He paid no attention to what I was saying.

109. He did me credit (e.g. ‘by his performance’). Lit.: ‘He whitened my face’.

110. In succession.

111. Follow-up committee.

112. Satellite states.

113. At your disposal.

114. Between October and November there is a second summer. (‘Indian summer’).

115. Relaxation after strenuous effort (Proverbial).
116. He has a perfect command of the language.

117. The house was built in 1948. (Note rendering of English passive).

118. Finished, praise be to God! (Frequently the closing words of a book or letter)

119. And consequently....

120. Crocodile tears.

121. He has just arrived.

122. He had the opportunity to work for....
132. Self-control.

133. A corpse.

134. Something new turned up/ there was a new development which affected him.

135. Lit.: ‘It is worth mentioning’. Link phrase meaning, ‘In this connection it is relevant that….’
136. Let us suppose for the sake of argument.

137. Birds of prey.

138. With the naked eye.

139. (Speaking) with objectivity.

140. Things are back to normal. (Lit.: 'The waters have returned to their natural courses').

141. The two sides held lengthy talks.

142. The situation was reviewed (Note rendering of English passive).

143. Because/on account of the fact that...

144. An integral part of...

145. Thank you very much.

146. Lit.: 'From the quiver (of arrows). Often = 'Oh, just something I dashed off'.

147. Much ado about nothing. (Lit.: Millstones grinding away but yet I see no grain.) (Proverbial).

148. And he began to write.

149. His Majesty.

150. God, may His majesty be glorified!
151. The whole thing is.../ in a nutshell.

152. Addition/subtraction/multiplication/division.

153. The whole/entire world.

154. A large crowd of people.

155. And he said, among other things/inter alia.

156. I have nothing to do with this (Lit.: I have in it neither a female nor a male camel).

157. Side by side.

158. Of the greatest/most extreme importance.
165. The rising generation/
younger generation.

166. He makes mountains out of molehills (Lit.: 'makes a dome out of a grain').

(Proverbial).

167. Love of country is a part of faith. (19th century Arab nationalist motto)

168. It would be so nice if we went...

169. Black on white/in writing (Lit.: ink on paper).
170. He played a double game
(Lit.: ‘on two strings’).

171. He simply has to attend/
inevitably he must be
present.

172. On the grounds that/using the
pretext that.


174. Quarantine.

175. Up to now/so far/hitherto.

176. From all directions.
192. It was our good fortune
that...

193. The Day of the Resurrection.
The Last Day.

194. God forbid!

195. To give an example, but not to
exclude other possibilities.

196. In summary it may be said,

197. The settled and the bedu.

198. You (Lit.: Your Honour).

199. Curfew.

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185. Kindly fasten your seat-belt. (Lit.: ‘took 1000
accounts of...’)

186. He was very apprehensive about...

187. Not only... but also...

188. Lit.: ‘The envious one does
not prevail’. Rhyming
prose motto, found on
back of trucks, for example.

189. What a pity!

190. Good! Fine! O.K.! Agreed!

191. It’s better to...; it would be
a good thing to...
216. He did everything possible and went to the most extreme lengths in order to...


214. He attributed the responsibility to him, made him responsible.

215. Good offices. (Diplomacy).

212. He arrived giving praise and thanks. (Each phrase).

211. By the beginning of Ramadan.


209. The fear of God is the fount of wisdom, the beginning of knowledge.

208. The provisions of Islamic law.

207. Necessity provides its own rules.

206. He assumed power.

205. You are right.

204. It may be truly said that...

203. A day full of activities: a very charged day.

202. O noble gathering! (Opening), may God preserve... (Opening).

200. King... may God preserve... (Opening).
217. Wherever it was/might be; haphazardly, at random.

218. He is still alive and flourishing.

219. In commemoration of the 40-day remembrance gathering for...

220. Come to prayer! (The Muezzin's call).

221. This is all a thing of the past.

222. Lit.: ‘What a black piece of news!’ O, no! How awful! etc.

223. The last of the prophets. (Muhammad.) The seal of the prophets.

224. Lit.: ‘They destroyed his home’. They gave him a hard time, ruined him, etc.
233. All long the line, right across the board, etc.

234. It never occurred to him, never crossed his mind that...

235. A person of considerable importance, significance.

236. Of his own good will.

237. May God guide your footsteps!

238. Slow down! Reduce speed!

239. Terrific reductions! (At the sales.)

240. It is hidden from no one that...; everyone knows that...

225. For reasons beyond our control.

226. Supernatural, out of the ordinary.

227. What a pity! That's such a pity, loss!

228. There were no fatalities.

229. It is feared that...

230. And in this connection...

231. And we make special mention of...

232. The appropriate departments, authorities.
248. Six years ago.

249. *Lit.: 'It is not devoid of benefit'. It is quite useful.

250. He released him.

251. With the exception of; except for.

252. The five Pillars of Islam.

253. For fear that, lest.

254. He was disappointed.

255. All things in moderation. *(Lit.: the best of things is the medium.)*

241. .... of eternal memory.

242. Yours Sincerely... *(Lit.: 'And may you remain to the sincere one'.)*

243. With most sincere congratulations.

244. ... which is quite different from the situation obtaining at that time.

245. Everyone agrees that... *(Lit.: 'two do not disagree on the fact that...')*

246. God's creation is wonderfully diverse. *(Frequently ironic comment on something farcical.)*

247. Of good character.
256. Selections from the Arabic Press.

257. And that would be the best thing for you. (Catch phrase from the stories of Juha).

258. He imagined.

259. The moving force, mastermind.

260. Changes were made to it.

261. For the limited-income brackets.

262. The inwardness of affairs; the inside story.

263. Colloquial Arabic.

264. To such a degree that... (One way of rendering 'so... that...'.)
265. Gradually. 266. The age of reason or maturity.

267. Prevention is better than cure. (Lit.: 'a dirham of care rather that a qintar of treatment'). (Proverbial).

268. A man called...

269. He wished long life to him.

270. The Attorney-General/Public Prosecutor.

271. The so-called self-government/autonomy.

272. Payment in advance.

273. All at one go/at once; at one fell swoop, etc.
289. A creditor account, an account in credit.

290. He was found guilty.

281. The situation is deteriorating quickly.

282. And so on/and so forth.

283. As long as I live.

284. So long as this is the situation...

285. Without a glance at...

286. To the exclusion of others.

287. Proverb: 'The eloquent cock crows from the egg'.

(Talent appearing at an early age).

288. No Credit.
298. Non-Muslim communities under Muslim rule and protection.

299. It slipped his mind that...

300. It was in vain; it all went for nothing.

301. His outlook on life, his philosophy of life.

302. He recalled to people's minds; he reminded his listeners/readers.

303. Of some importance, significance.

304. A relative.

305. On one occasion.

306. Autarky, self-sufficiency.

291. On a frequency of...

292. On the grounds/pretext that...

293. The Koran.

294. The previously-mentioned, the above-mentioned.

295. Something of no significance.

296. He mentioned him in laudatory terms.

297. It was nothing worth mentioning.
316. Employers.


318. Alphabetical order.

319. He left on a trip, never to return.

320. The credit for this must go to...

321. Please do not... (For example, in public notices.)

322. The nomadic Arabs.

323. May God have mercy on him!

307. Head over heels.

308. Lit.: on my head. 'I will do it right away', etc.

309. At the head of a sizeable delegation.

310. His birthplace.

311. I wonder.......

312. I feel myself obliged to...

313. Visibility is good.

314. The Lord of the Worlds.

315. Housewives (Lit.: ladies of the houses).
332. The twin rivers (Tigris & Euphrates.)

333. He rejected it totally, out of hand.

334. A high-level delegation.

335. He took..... to court ; raised a case against....

336. The attached/enclosed letter.

337. Thank you for your kind letter.

338. Decentralization.

339. He performed two prostrations in saying his prayers.

324. They returned the fire.

325. A powerful reaction.

326. The addressee.

327. To let. (Property).

328. He reached the age of maturity.


330. Persona non grata; an undesirable.

331. In spite of the fact that....

332. They returned the fire.

325. A powerful reaction.

326. The addressee.

327. To let. (Property).

328. He reached the age of maturity.


330. Persona non grata; an undesirable.

331. In spite of the fact that....
340. Work piling up.

341. The whole world.

342. In the twinkling of an eye.

343. He was executed by firing-squad.

344. In the present circumstances.

345. In order to save lives.

346. He expressed satisfaction on the part of both sides with the results of the talks.
359. I have a cold.

360. A slip of the tongue.

361. The conference due to be held.

362. The British Foreign Secretary met with his French counterpart.

363. A chronic illness.

364. Rock-bottom prices! Very low prices!

365. A storm in a tea-cup.

355. Proverbial: The blows of the beloved are as raisins.

356. Please do not disturb.

357. Like a deaf man at a wedding. Proverbial for someone being completely unaware of what is going on.

366. A pair of shoes.

367. Condominium. (E.g. the former 'Anglo-Egyptian Sudan'.)

368. False testimony

369. He is still living.

370. And as an extra precaution.

371. A very important question.

372. May He be praised, who changes circumstances.

(Pious expression, often used ironically in comment on some extraordinary change.)

373. May God be praised!

(Expression of astonishment.)

374. Unprecedented; incomparable.
375. He had gone previously; he. had already gone; he went previously.

376. The arms-race.

377. For example.

378. The Iron Curtain.

379. O God! (One of God's names: the Coverer, or Protector.

*Used to invoke defence against some unpleasant possible or actual event.)*

380. This is the most absurd/ ridiculous thing; couldn't be more absurd.

381. It was a complete waste of time; it was (all) in vain.
396. Give him my best wishes!
397. He took over the reins of government.
398. O God! (Expression of surprise, using the name of God which means Peace.)
399. They returned safely to base.
400. Audio-visual equipment/methods.
401. Something existing in name only.
402. His Royal Highness.
403. The High Commissioner.
404. The people of the Sunna. Sunny Muslims.

389. (So-and-so) of blessed memory.
390. First Aid.
391. Seeking a livelihood; making a living; chasing after money. (Lit: striving after money/coins/qurush.)
392. He stood aghast, bewildered.
393. The daily serial (radio series, TV, etc.)
394. Attention was focussed on. (Lit.: lights were concentrated on.)
395. An advance (money).
413. They talked about you; your name came up.

414. The rest of the world; all other parts of the world.

415. The implementation of the project is going ahead (smoothly).

405. He had an opportunity to work for...

406. Backed up by official documents.

407. Inadvertently

408. Unfortunately.

409. From bad to worse.

410. He ill-treated so-and-so.

411. He let him down, disappointed him, did not do him credit. (Lit.: blackened his face.)

412. On an equal footing.
422. We shall never give up one inch of ground.

423. He spoke at great length on it.

424. He was suspicious about him.

425. What a difference between them!

426. From all parts of the world.

427. The doctor diagnosed the illness.

428. Because of the intensity of our joy; because we were so glad. (NB: rendering of the English 'so... that').

416. An unlucky number.

417. In this respect/regard he is in the same position as all his neighbours.

418. May He be exalted! (God)

419. Leave me alone, to myself.

420. Of exalted/high/grand status.

421. Proverbial. 'He who grew up with something grows old and grey with it.'

Approximately 'Old habits die hard'.
429. He emphasised the importance of the subject.

430. Having a counter-productive effect. *(Lit: 'Too much stretching loosens (elastic)').*

431. Intensified security measures; stepped up security measures.

432. Proverbial. ‘Keep clear of evil and sing out to it!’

433. The lesser of two evils.

434. He drank the health of so-and-so.

435. Let him go and drink the sea! *(Proverbial for writing-off or dismissing someone).*

436. A man with moustaches.
445. Proverbial. 'The people of Mecca know best its narrow streets.' ('Far be it from me as an outsider to presume to comment......')

446. Until further notice.

447. The Hajj rites/ceremonial.

448. Rioting, acts of civil disturbance.

449. My principal preoccupation.

450. He occupied an important post.

466. The Koran

467. Plat du jour; daily special (In a restaurant.)

468. And in this connection.

469. The subject with which we are dealing.

470. He felt (a great) relief.

471. I came across him by chance on my way.

472. Proverbial. ‘A chance meeting which is better than a thousand appointments.’

460. Sweat poured from him.

461. Good morning (Formal, e.g. on radio, TV.)

462. Good morning.

463. It is rightly said of him... ...

464. Or, to put it more correctly; ... or, rather....

465. The host.
481. From now on; henceforth.

482. Proverbial. 'Learning when young is like carving in rock.'

483. 'Just a lot of talk'.
 Meaningless verbiage.

484. Empty-handed.

485. Lit: 'a zero on the left'. A person of no significance.

486. Proverbial. 'One hand cannot applaud'. Co-operation is necessary.

487. Unserviceable; useable.

473. Almighty God has spoken truly. (Said when quoting from the Koran.)

474. Proverbial. 'A friend in need is a friend indeed.'

475. The straight path.

476. Miscellaneous/sundry expenses.

477. Regardless of, irrespective of...

478. The past year.

479. Escalation of the crisis.

480. On the international plane; internationally; in the international arena.
488. Prayertimes: Dawn; صلاة الفجر/الظهر
Noontime; Afternoon; العصر/المغرب
Sunset; Evening.

489. From the depths of my heart. من قلبي

490. You are right/correct. أجل

491. Lower your voice! إخفِ صوتك!
505. Many, many times (the size) of...

506. Registered mail.

507. He wasted his time.

508. What a pity! What a waste!

509. Moreover, ... (Lit: ‘Add to that, that...

498. Anti-aircraft artillery.

499. In case of need/necessity.

500. Necessity may authorise forbidden acts.

501. Zaid struck Amr. (Sentence used to teach children the verb, the nominative and the accusative).

502. The master’s stroke/touch is worth a thousand.

503. He set the record. (Sport, etc.)

504. Three times (multiplication). E.g. ‘three times the size of...’
516. First class; first rate.

517. The two of them were diametrically opposed.

518. The discussion led on to the subject of...

519. A hunger-strike.

520. He was of an advanced age.

521. The crew of the aircraft.

522. A dining-room set.

523. A house overlooking the sea.

510. Being printed.

511. An exact copy; spitting image.

512. The views were in complete agreement.

513. There was no appreciable change in the situation.

514. He put a question to him.

515. And he went on to say....
531. If you wish to be obeyed, then give orders for what is possible. (Proverbial.)

532. Beyond me; too difficult for me; beyond my ability; out of my range.

533. For a long time.

534. So long as/since (Conjunction.)

535. All over the country. (Lit.: 'Throughout the length and breadth of the country.')

536. Term of address: ‘May God lengthen your life’.

537. .... the penalty for which is death.

524. Two are insatiable, the seeker after knowledge and the seeker after money. (Proverbial.)

525. Public-opinion poll.

526. Reconnaissance aircraft.

527. He ran away at great speed. He shot off into the blue.

528. No, absolutely not.

529. ‘I hear and obey’. (Catch-phrase from ‘Arabian Nights’)

530. As much as possible/as you are able.
543. Within two days.

544. Compelling circumstances; force-majeure.

545. He harboured hostile thoughts about him.

546. ‘Some thoughts can be a sin’. (Caution against forming hostile judgments hastily about someone.)

547. .... in my opinion; that's what I think (at least).

548. .... since we thought that....

549. It is widely thought that...; it is most likely that....

538. (Please find) enclosed.

539. Formal greeting, esp. in broadcasting: ‘May your times be good!’

540. Formal greeting, esp. in broadcasting: ‘May your evening be good!’ ‘Good evening!’

541. He went out of his mind; he was absolutely furious/livid.

542. Proverb. ‘It is a goat even if it flies’ (Basic character is unchangeable).
550. Apparently.

551. Apparently

552. It is considered unimportant.

553. The poor slave. (Deprecatory reference to oneself)

554. A kind of/sort of.

555. The inimitability of the Koran.

556. Sooner or later.

557. The count-down.
567. Martial law.
568. The tightest bond.
569. Totally devoid of any truth.
570. In the prime of his youth.
571. The remark has been attributed to X, that...
572. Honeymoon.
573. Proverbial. 'He who lives with the tribe for forty days becomes one of them.'

558. Polygamy.
559. Incompetence.
560. Dissatisfaction, displeasure.
561. With the exception of...
562. The Tripartite Aggression.
(Common journalistic shorthand for the Suez campaign, 1956)
563. Proverbial: 'an excuse worse than the original fault.'
564. A thought occured to him.
565. This is not the proper place to discuss....
566. This is a difficult and involved subject.
582. The imposition of economic sanctions.

583. Getting married.

584. It is believed that....

585. Of unsound mind; mentally disturbed.

586. The irrational.

587. He poisoned the atmosphere (in a relationship, for example) between them.

588. No, quite the opposite/on the contrary!

589. Cause and effect.

574. The students staged a sit-in in the Faculty of Arts.

575. A display of muscles.

576. All good wishes (Lit. 'perfumed wishes').

577. He looked at the request sympathetically.

578. Out of work, unemployed.

579. To be out of action.

580. King ....... (honorific epithet.)

581. I beg your pardon!
599. He is 12 years of age.

600. In all parts of the world.

601. The provisions in force.

602. At sunset.

603. He was held in high esteem by him.

604. In the full bloom of youth.

605. Proverbial. ‘The book is read from its title’. Small indications can tell you the whole story.

590. Great hopes were placed in him.

591. I know as much as you do about it! (I.e., not much.) How should I know?!

592. For your information.

593. God (only) knows!

594. Having in mind that, hoping that...

595. However.

596. And therefore...

597. Colloquial. (For example, colloquial Arabic.)

598. The elite and the general run of people.
614. With the help of God.

615. Shame on you.

616. Long live the King!

617. An eye witness.

606. The parties concerned.

607. The tail of the dog remains crooked. Proverbial for someone who is incorrigible.

608. In accordance with custom or habit.

609. Ritual phrase. '..... that hospitality to which you have accustomed us'.

610. ..... never to return.

611. A re-examination of the subject.

612. (Congratulations on day of religious or personal celebration.) Happy Feast!

613. May God Help him!
624. There was abundant rainfall.

625. Brain-washing.

626. He fainted.

627. A heavily-populated area.

628. In the meantime; at the same time.

629. I beg pardon of God. (Modest disclaimer, or hearing praise of oneself, for example)

630. The late....

618. Clear, plain, incontestable.

619. The esteemed newspaper .... (Honoric applied by competitor.)

620. The first of the month.

621. He took him unawares.

622. Along the lines of; on the model of...

623. It is not surprising; it is no wonder that....
631. Formal expression of condolence. ‘May God enfold the late lamented with his abundant mercy’.

632. I seize the opportunity to.

633. There is no need to add; needless to say that.

634. It slipped my mind.

635. Only. (In commercial transactions mainly).

636. Without his knowledge.

637. He changed his mind.

638. Day after day.

639. Although.

640. As for; however; in fact, etc.

641. Cautiously optimistic.

642. Patience is the key to relief. Proverbial.

643. The ‘Fatihah’. (Opening chapter of the Koran.)
651. The hostages were released.

652. An obtuse angle.

653. A book unique of its kind.

654. The newspaper had an exclusive in publishing the news/had a 'scoop'.

655. He was supposed to go.

656. I shall be waiting impatiently for you.

657. Rubbish! Nonsense!

658. In your spare time.

644. The first of September.

645. From time to time.

646. A general referendum.

647. From every direction.

648. Your Excellency, the President!

649. Very heavy losses.

650. King [with honorific epithet.]
665. A great deal is due to him; he deserves a great deal of credit.

666. Apart from; in addition to.

667. The credit for that must go to him.

668. Motto found in many public places: 'This is due to the graciousness of my Lord God'.

669. The Feast at the end of Ramadan.

670. Yes, indeed! Quite so!, etc.

671. Actually; in fact.

672. With retroactive effect.

673. Troop disengagement agreement.

659. Divide and rule.

660. Racial discrimination.

661. Proverb. (All the game is in the belly of the wild ass.) Someone or thing with the right qualities relieves you of the need to have resort to others.

662. Classical Arabic.

663. 'And here is the news in detail.'

664. He was involved in a scandal.
681. Let bygones be bygones! (Lit. : What is dead has gone)

682. Immediately.

683. Extraordinary; unusual

684. A pack of lies!

685. Multiply 3 by 5!

686. According to news reports from Amman....

687. A rumour to the effect that......

674. By the way ....

675. Light entertainment programmes.

676. Come to salvation. (From the Muslim call to prayer).

677. At such-and-such a time.

678. Madness takes all forms.

679. He was totally/selflessly devoted to his work.

680. The talks proceeded in an atmosphere of complete mutual understanding.
694. It is not within his power to....; he cannot....

695. Jerusalem.

696. Something irrelevant. (Neither advances nor retards).

697. Smoothly. (For example, work going on.)

698. Of great antiquity.

699. Long, long ago....

700. He imitated the example of X.

701. The view was taken that....

702. The apple of his eye.

703. The meeting due to be held...

688. Quotations from the local press.

689. ..... than before (after a comparative).

690. Something of this sort.

691. The situation was reviewed by...

692. Negotiable.

693. Fate and Destiny. (Pious ejaculation in comment on, for example, a death or accident.)
712. Rodents.
713. If need be.
714. Unparalleled, incomparable.
715. Extracts from the foreign press.
716. Confined to the house.
717. With a few exceptions only.
718. Seldom.
719. An attempt to overthrow the regime.
704. Inductive (philosophy)
705. Near to.
706. It has absolutely no connection with the subject in any way (neither close nor remote)
707. Biting cold.
708. Alexander the Great.
709. The wife of Mr. X.
710. I swear by God!
711. A fact-finding mission.
720. The patient's condition gives cause for concern.

721. Illegal.

722. The system of rationing.

723. Gossip.

724. There was a great commotion.

725. He took.... to court; made a complaint against...

726. It's an ill wind that blows no one any good. (Proverb: 'The disasters of one tribe are the benefits of another')

727. The work force.

728. He muzzled him; placed considerable restraints on him.

729. Heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy.

730. God is Most Great!

731. He said 'God is Most Great!'

732. A Leap Year.

733. Scapegoat.
741. The Ministry denied the allegations of the foreign journalist.

742. Over and over again.

743. May God enoble his face! (Said of holy and distinguished men in Islam).

744. More generous than Hatim Tai. (Proverbial symbol of Arab hospitality).

745. The daughter of So-and-so.

746. The contents of the message were not revealed.

747. An overdrawn account.

748. A cubic metre.

749. I could not get to sleep.

750. The tolling masses.

734. It was written! (Fatalism)

735. The People of the Book. (Those religions which believe in a revealed book).

736. We shall not stand idly by. (Diplomatic threat of retaliation).

737. The subject was shrouded in the most complete secrecy.

738. Intense diplomatic activity.
764. It is a kind of...

763. He knows the essence of the subject.

762. Under the protection of God, (Proverbial for pardoning human error).

761. The whole world...

760. Perfection is God's (alone).

759. How many times...

758. Someone giving himself airs: a presumptuous person.

757. It cost him a fortune/can enormous amount.

755. Proverb: The dogs bark and the caravan proceeds on its way.

754. Certainly not! (Negation of immediately preceding).

753. The whole thing is...; in a nutshell.

752. We have the highest appreciation of him.

751. His efforts were crowned with success.

750. ... and that is enough!

749. The entire British people.
765. As soon as he arrived... لا 765. لَمْ يَكُدْ يَصِلْ حَتَّى...

766. Because he was/had been a former pupil. (NB Use of verbal noun)

767. The leading/most prominent... مَكَانُ الصَّادِرَة

768. No one learns except from his own pocket. (Proverbial for learning by hard experience).

769. No matter how the situation was.

770. Just as you like.

771. There is no God but God.

772. There is no good/value/benefit in it.

773. Especially.

774. Neither... nor.

775. The heart of the matter.

776. Proverbial. 'The wise man understands simply from a sign.'

(Verbum sat....)

777. The ramifications of the case.
786. It is so nice to talk to you!
787. If the situation requires that.
788. A very close male relative; first cousin.
789. In case of necessity.
790. Proverbial. 'A new language is a new man.'
791. A radio war of words; a broadcast campaign of mutual vituperation.
792. O God! (O Kindly One!)
    Expression of surprise.
793. Playing on words.

778. We have responded to your call!
779. In response to the invitation of so-and-so.
780. The same old story. (Lit.: 'pounding and kneading' in the preparation of food).
781. From the cradle to the grave.
782. It is noticeable that...
783. Later, subsequently.
784. He joined the army.
785. The French Ambassador to the UN.
802. He has no idea what is going on; does not have a clue.
(Lit.: ‘does not know the snake from the water pipe’.)

803. If only he were here.

794. After a lot of beating around the bush.

795. It is noticeable that...

796. He met his death.

797. The responsibilities placed on him.

798. Voluntarily, spontaneously, of his own free will.

799. Au revoir!

800. Proverbial ‘Had it not been for my father I should not have known my Lord God’.

801. All kinds of food.
810. He appeared in court.


812. Medical services are provided gratis.

813. Pure Arabic.

814. The elimination of illiteracy.

815. He put out the hand of friendship.

816. Proverb. 'Stretch out your legs according to your carpet'. Do not live above your means.

817. Raw materials; primary materials.

804. How beautiful he is!

805. Expression of astonishment and admiration. ('what God wills!')

806. Some day.

807. Forty-five degrees Centigrade.

808. It has no connection with...

809. On board the aircraft.
828. He peered closely at... مَثَّلَ... أَمْنُ النَّظَرِ فِي... ٨٢٨

829. The maximum possible. مَكْنُوْنَ أَكْثَرْ مَا يَمْكِنُ. ٨٢٩

830. (He) has excellent command of the language. يُقْدِرُ الْإِمْكَانِ مَمْكُونَ مِنَ النَّطَعِ. ٨٣٠

831. As much as possible. يُقْدِرُ الْإِمْكَانِ مَكْنُوْنَ. ٨٣١

832. I have complete freedom to... لَيْ لَيْ مَلْعَةَ الْحَرْبِيَّةِ فِي... ٨٣٢

833. No one can... مَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ يَقْدِرُ. ٨٣٣

834. I saw all the books he had. رَأَيْتُ كُلُّ مَا عَنْدَهُ مِنْ كُتُبْ. ٨٣٤

835. If what the papers say is true, إلى الصِّحْفَ مِنْ أَنْ... ٨٣٥

836. I shall be terribly grateful. سَأَكُونُ مَمْتَنُوْنَا كُلَّ الْإِمْتِانِ. ٨٣٦

818. He ignored the subject/accident as people with dignity do. مَرَّ مُرْورُ الْكَرَامٍ. ٨١٨

819. With the passage of time. مَرَّ مْرُورُ الْوَقْتِ. ٨١٩

820. Contagious diseases. أمَّارَضٌ مَعْدٌدٌ. ٨٢٠

821. The end is the best. (Lit.: The end is musk) الخَتَامُ مَسْكٌ. ٨٢١

822. In accordance with. تَمْسَى مَع... ٨٢٢

823. He went on to say... مَسْك فِي كِلَامِهِ. ٨٢٣

824. He went on to say... مَسْك قَالَ أَلَا. ٨٢٤

825. A year ago. مِنْ سَبْتِ مُسْتَ. ٨٢٥

826. Although..... معَ أَنْ... ٨٢٦

827. Nonetheless..... وَمَعَ ذَلِكْ... ٨٢٧
837. I accept the invitation with gratitude.

838. Since very recently.

839. Parking absolutely prohibited.

840. We wish you every success.

841. Take it easy! Go slowly!

842. Regardless of cost.

843. They put up a desperate defence of the position.

844. They saved his face.
851. In compliance with the wishes of those attending/the audience...

852. He agreed to forego his right(s).

853. The offence attributed to him.

854. I can never forget. (Catch phrase: 'If I forget I shall never forget...')

855. His share of that was nothing.

856. The (National) Lottery.

857. 50/50 (profit-sharing) agreement.
873. A disaster area.

874. Ingratitude.

875. They are of the same kind. هم على نمط واحد.

876. The developing countries.

877. Development projects.

878. He seized the opportunity to express his gratitude.

879. He rose to responsibility (That is, he was up to it.)

880. Extremely accurate, precise, delicate.

867. Competition was at its most intense.

868. At the expense of so-and-so. (Lit.: 'He bore the expenses.')

869. Oil exploration operations.

870. Payment in cash.

871. More or less. (In the sense of, for example 'plus or minus 5%'.)

872. Radio .... says, quoting....
881. They took turns at the work; they worked shifts.

882. To some extent.

883. Twenty years and some.

884. Within reach of everyone.

885. Sound asleep; fast asleep.

886. Of good intentions.

887. Difficult of attainment.

888. He detracted from his good name.

889. It was a complete waste; it went in vain.

890. A storm of applause.

891. Reduce speed! Slow down!

892. ‘Engaged’, committed literature.

893. A ‘digestible’ person. One who is very amiable.
908. A flood of questions.

907. The Bedu.

906. Or else; otherwise.

905. By God! (By Him in whose hand is my soul).

904. By God! (By Him in whose hand is my soul).

903. He arrived while the sun was rising.

902. It is not consonant with their principles.

901. Sports fans.

900. Something not to be taken lightly; something of importance.

899. Most sincere congratulations.

898. He was just about to get into his car.

897. And so on and so forth.

896. Depreciation account.

895. At the beginning of our broadcasting for today.....

894. He began the session with.....
916. That is from one aspect (of the matter) but on the other hand...

917. But for my part.....

918. One-way street.

919. Those who believe in one God only.

920. The delegates arrived at the house singly.

921. I should like to...

922. We say goodbye ('We place you in the keeping of God.') For example at the end of broadcast transmission.

923. Goodbye, my country!

909. The situation is still tense.

910. A reliable source.

911. He has blind faith/confidence in him.

912. There is no thanks for what is a duty. (Formal reply to thanks).

913. An action deserving of gratitude.

914. Summary of the news. The headlines.

915. To end this bulletin here again are the main points, ladies and gentlemen.
930. I cannot do other than to say...
931. I cannot....
932. Traditional phrase: 'You are most welcome'.
933. On the point of collapse.
934. (A problem) on the verge of a solution.
935. In his capacity as Chairman of the Council.
936. The two sides have not yet reached an agreement.
937. The other side requested some clarifications.
942. Standard phrase for describing dignitary's reception: 'He was seen off with the same hospitality and honour with which he had been received'.
943. We are poles apart (in our views) 'I am in one wadi and you are in another'.
944. An action deserving of....
945. He was not mentioned at all.
946. He is a person of no standing. ('He has no weight')
948. He is unbalanced.
929. Of medium height.
946. The Balfour Declaration.

947. By 30 April

948. He hinted to him to...

949. And his accompanying delegation.

950. Those coming from abroad.

951. If the necessary conditions are met.

952. My success is only from God.

953. And God is the one who provides success.

938. To put an end to the enemy's transgressions.

939. The plan was put into execution.

940. An objective study.

941. The complete form of 'ahlan wa sahlan!' (You are welcome; You have come accross your own people and you have trodden on even ground.)

942. Lower your voice!

943. The National Anthem.

944. Point of weakness.

945. We took in/absorbed the idea.
963. Proverb. ‘Prevention is better than cure’

964. For sure; definitely; I can assure you! (‘God is your agent’)

965. Traditional phrase: ‘And place your trust in God’.

966. The Prophet’s Birthday.

967. He was born in 1918.

968. As follows:

969. He took over the government.

970. The Heir-Apparent; Crown Prince (only if there is a royal family).

971. My Lord..... (Title of great respect)

972. A man of arts; a gifted man.

954. National Reconciliation.

955. Haphazardly, at random.

956. Greenwich Mean Time.

957. He fell in love with her.

958. We have been faced with a ‘fait accompli’.

959. As was expected.

960. He took a hostile attitude to him.

961. He was sentenced to a prison term, the sentence to be suspended.

962. Proverb: ‘Avoid the evil of him to whom you have done good.’
973. From the first moment; from the first glance.

974. Illusory illnesses.

975. Woe to you!

976. Woe to you!

977. A hopeless situation.

978. He is constipated.

979. An only goal. (Sports jargon.)


981. Through him; by his agency.

982. He has decisive influence on...

983. 'My certainty of God protects me'.
984. He took the constitutional oath.

985. At that time.